

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
Fourth Floor, John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

May 18, 2005
9:00 a.m.

Present: Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mr. Reginald M. Turner
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser
Ms. Sue C. Carnell, representing Governor Jennifer M.
Granholm, ex officio

Absent: Dr. Jeremy M. Hughes, Interim Superintendent, Chairman

Also Present: Mrs. Heidi Capraro, 2004-2005 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SPECIAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction and Chairman of the Board, did not attend the meeting. In his absence, Mrs. Kathleen Straus, Board President, chaired the meeting, and called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the motion be amended to include the addition of the following agenda item: "Discussion Regarding Selection of the Superintendent of Public Instruction" that may lead to the appointment of the Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction. He said written consent from all voting members of the Board has been obtained, as required by the State Board of Education By-Laws adopted May 9, 2002.

The vote was taken on the amendment to add "Discussion Regarding Selection of the Superintendent of Public Instruction."

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, Straus, Weiser
Absent: McGuire, Turner

The motion to amend carried.

The vote was taken on the motion to approve the agenda, and order of priority, as amended.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, Straus, Weiser
Absent: McGuire, Turner

The motion carried.

III. DISCUSSION REGARDING INTERVIEW PROCESS

Mrs. Straus said she will be interviewing the three candidates selected at the May 9, 2005, Special Meeting. She said Board members should agree on the ground rules for today's interviews. She said each Board member has a copy of the 20 interview questions that were developed using suggestions from Board members, Department staff, and others. She proposed that Board members take turns posing questions to each candidate. She said all three candidates will be asked the same questions, and no additional questions will be asked.

Mrs. Straus asked if there are any objections to the process, and there were none.

The interview questions are attached as Exhibit A.

IV. INTERVIEW OF THOMAS P. JANDRIS

Mrs. Straus introduced Dr. Thomas P. Jandris, Executive Director, Progress Education Corporation.

Mrs. Straus outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview.

The interview with Dr. Jandris began at 9:25 a.m. and ended at 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. McGuire arrived at 9:35 a.m.

The audio tape and video tape of the interview are on file in the State Board of Education Office.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed at 11:05 a.m. and reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

VI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MRS. KATHLEEN STRAUS

Mrs. Straus said Mr. Daniel J. Schab, Williamston High School mathematics teacher was named 2005-2006 Michigan Teacher of the Year during a surprise announcement on May 17, 2005. Mrs. Straus said she, Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive; Ms. Jean Shane, Special Assistant for Awards and Recognition Programs; Mrs. Heidi Capraro, 2004-2005 Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Martin Ackley, Public Information Officer; were present at the announcement. She distributed an article from today's (May 18, 2005) Lansing State Journal regarding the announcement of Mr. Schab as Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Straus asked the Board's pleasure in discussing the interviews, and it was the consensus of the Board that all three interviews be discussed at the end of the day.

VII. RECESS

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:35 a.m. and reconvened at 12:33 p.m.

VIII. INTERVIEW OF NICHOLAS A. FISCHER

Mrs. Straus introduced Dr. Nicholas Fischer, Assistant Superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia.

Mrs. Straus outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview.

The interview with Dr. Fischer began at 12:35 p.m. and ended at 2:50 p.m.

Mr. Turner joined the meeting via telephone from 1:05 p.m. until 1:10 p.m. He arrived at the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

The audio tape and video tape of the interview are on file in the State Board of Education Office.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed at 2:55 p.m. and reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

X. INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mrs. Straus introduced Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Executive Director, Michigan Association of School Administrators.

Mrs. Straus outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview.

The interview with Mr. Flanagan began at 3:10 p.m. and ended at 4:55 p.m.

The audio tape and video tape of the interview are on file in the State Board of Education Office.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed at 4:55 p.m. and reconvened at 5:20 p.m.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Sherrie Davis, 268 Helen Drive, Rockford, Michigan 49341. Ms. Davis, representing Michigan Art Education Association, shared comments regarding the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth and arts education.
- B. Ms. Donna Edwards, 17515 West 9 Mile Road, #1025, Southfield, Michigan 48075. Ms. Edwards, representing ArtServe Michigan, shared comments regarding the Board's inclusion of arts and creativity in the Superintendent interview questions.

XIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING SELECTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Mrs. Straus asked each Board member to indicate their preferences for Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Mrs. Weiser: Mr. Michael Flanagan knows the systems of Michigan well enough to implement practical solutions quickly with the partners needed to increase student success. He has credibility in the field, he knows Michigan's "warts" and on a personal and professional basis is driven to solve them. He has a history of working with intermediate school districts as partners. His learning curve would be much shorter than the other two candidates.

- Mr. Turner: Mr. Michael Flanagan has the technical understanding of the statutory requirements for accountability and improved student achievement and a demonstrated record of assisting with the achievement of difficult standards under difficult circumstances. He is able to implement the values associated with accountability and improved student achievement in others. He has experience as a local and intermediate school district superintendent and executive director of an association. He has implemented change in high priority schools. He has the respect of stakeholders throughout Michigan, he is willing to hold them accountable, and provides them with professional development tools to achieve the standards that the Board wants to achieve that are imposed by federal law. He has demonstrated knowledge, achievement, and relationships with stakeholders including the Governor, superintendents, and Department staff.
- Mrs. Bauer: Dr. Nicholas Fischer best recognizes the vast diversity of students and sees possibilities for them in terms of respecting students and bringing them into the mainstream of education. Dr. Fischer would bring experiences from outside the state of Michigan that could benefit students.
- Mrs. Danhof: Mrs. Danhof said she is undecided at this time. Dr. Jandris saw things in a way that Mrs. Danhof had not been privileged to see, and she appreciated that. Dr. Fischer did the same, and has strengths with regard to budget issues. Mr. Flanagan also knows these things, and she respects him for saying he has strengths and weaknesses.
- Mrs. Danhof said she has contacted references for Dr. Fischer and Dr. Jandris and received candid comments addressing both strengths and weaknesses. Mrs. Danhof said she would prefer to have more time to make a thoughtful decision.
- Mr. Austin: Mr. Michael Flanagan is an education reformer, an impassioned and committed educator, a change agent. He refashioned the work of Wayne Regional Educational Service Area and created charter schools bringing diverse populations together. He has rearranged resources to improve student achievement. He is able to work well with the Governor and Legislature, seriously and practically with regard to education.

Mr. Austin said he checked references and found limitations with Dr. Fischer.

Mrs. Curtin: Mrs. Curtin said she is undecided at this time. All three candidates have a passion for education and children, and are all splendid candidates. She said she acknowledges the historic opportunity to work closely with the Governor by selecting Mr. Flanagan, however Dr. Jandris and Dr. Fischer also have many strengths.

Mrs. McGuire: Dr. Nicholas Fischer has passion and demonstrated ability to work with students and teachers and deeply care about them. He has a background as a teacher so he understands the classroom. He has demonstrated ability to work with the Legislature. Mrs. McGuire said she would also like more time to review her notes.

Mrs. Straus: Mrs. Straus said she was impressed with all three candidates. She said they all are articulate, sensitive, passionate, and committed to children. Mr. Flanagan knows Michigan, and his greatest strength is alignment. He would work well with the Governor, and that is critical.

Mrs. Straus said she also checked references and received positive comments regarding Dr. Fischer.

Mrs. Straus said she hopes to have a unanimous decision, and asked if Board members were willing to vote at today's meeting. Mr. Austin said he would like the Board to consider the virtues of moving ahead together, and voting at today's meeting. Mr. Turner and Mrs. Curtin said it is their belief that delay in voting will not change the vote.

After much discussion, Mrs. Curtin called for the vote.

Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education (1) appoint Mr. Michael P. Flanagan to the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction, subject to the terms imposed by law, based on his broad vision of quality education for all children of Michigan, his knowledge of strengths and weaknesses in Michigan education, his credibility in the field, his proven and professional commitment to improve Michigan schools, his ability to implement practical solutions quickly given his experience in prekindergarten through grade 16 in Michigan education, and his current role in policy and administration, and (2) authorize the Board President and Secretary to enter into contract negotiations with Mr. Flanagan.

Mrs. Straus said all three candidates have passed a background check at the state level, and a national check will be done on the preferred candidate.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

Austin – Aye
Bauer – Abstain
Curtin – Aye
Danhof – Abstain
McGuire – Nay
Straus – Aye
Turner – Aye
Weiser – Aye

The motion carried.

Mrs. Straus thanked Board members for their commitment and devotion to carrying out their responsibilities as elected officials serving on the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Capraro left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

XIV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. June 14, 2005 – Holt Public Schools, Holt
- B. July 12, 2005 – Site to be Determined
- C. August 9, 2005 – East Lansing Public Schools, East Lansing
- D. September 13, 2005 – Site to be Determined

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary